

Minutes from a meeting of the Concordia Council on Student Life held on Friday, 18 March, 12:30 p.m., on the SGW Campus, Room H-771.

1994

Present: Dr. D.L. Boisvert, Chair; Mr. B. Counihan; Dr. S.M. Graub; Ms. A. Kerby; Ms. N. Torbit; Mr. R. Côté; Mr. V. Pavlicik; Ms. C. Fortier; Dr. B. Litner; Mr. A. Ghaemi; Ms. J. Davies; Ms. J. Brown; Mr. D. Leib; Mr. K. Lowther.

Absent: Mr. H. Zarins; Ms. L. Grimes; Mr. P. Dalton; Ms. K. Bolh; Mr. A. Switzer.

1. Approval of Agenda: Mr. Ghaemi requested that the document Alternative Library Book Renewal System, be discussed under New Business. On a motion by Mr. Côté, seconded by Mr. Pavlicik, the agenda, as modified, was approved.
2. Remarks from the Chair: 1. Dr. Boisvert was pleased to announce that the mens basketball team was presently in Halifax for the National Championships. 2. The report on Gay and Lesbian Life will be the main agenda item at the April meeting of CCSL. 3. A referendum will be held 5, 6, and 7 of April regarding a special fee to support the construction of new athletic facilities. The University has reached agreement with the four major student associations, and they have agreed to support a major public campaign to inform students prior to the referendum. Mr. Pavlicik commented on the distributed flyer, A Commitment to Excellence: The Recreation & Athletics Complex Concordia University. A quorum of 7500 students will be necessary to pass the referendum and students were invited to contact anyone within the Department of Recreation and Athletics for information.
3. Approval of Minutes from the Meeting of 18 February 1994: On a motion by Mr. Ghaemi, seconded by Ms. Fortier, the minutes were approved.
4. Business Arising from the Minutes: a) **Invited Guest: Dr. Max Barlow, Associate Vice-Rector, Services (Physical Environment)** - Dr. Barlow was welcomed by the chair and invited to address Council. Dr. Barlow informed Council that he would break up his discussion in the following manner a) brief outline of services that report to him; b) deal with specific issues of concern to CCSL; c) generate discussion on how concerns can be addressed. He then distributed an organization chart of the Physical Environment area and briefly explained how each section would touch upon issues of concern to CCSL.
 1. Space Planning - bus shelters.
 2. Construction Services- mostly done by outside contractors, but would oversee and coordinate work; they are the line of communication between the project and people who may be affected (i.e., noise during exam periods).

3. Maintenance - this is the most visible area to CCSL, responsible for repairs, upkeep and cleaning.
4. Professional Trades - labour relations, somewhat removed from everyday University matters.
5. Utilities and Energy Conservation - power plant - air quality.
6. Physical Resources Administration - support group for Physical Resources; transportation, shuttle buses.

These six areas comprise the Physical Resources aspect of the organizational chart. Included under the Physical Environment section are:

1. Security
2. Environmental Health and Safety - ensures that the University complies with all health and safety regulations, monitors the teaching labs and Fine Arts studios, is responsible for the disposal of hazardous waste and determines procedures on emergency response.

Included in Dr. Barlow's portfolio, but not touching upon any issues raised by Council is the Conservatory of Cinematographic Art.

By highlighting three areas: utilities and energy, hazardous waste removal and shuttle buses, Dr. Barlow was able to illustrate the enormous financial pressure that has been put on the area over the past few years. The cost of utilities and energy has increased by 75% over the past three years, hazardous waste has gone from \$0 five years ago to \$125,000 today, and shuttle buses have been increased and replaced over the past three years to a cost of \$165,000 per year. These are all considered essential services, but no corresponding increases in budget have occurred to offset these expenses, resulting in less money available for other services, such as maintenance.

All of the above information was given as background. As no questions were raised, Dr. Barlow continued to address specific issues that had been raised by Council and conveyed to him by Dr. Boisvert.

Washrooms on the 6th floor of the McConnell Building - he has received a petition from students which outlines a compromise arrangement, and a meeting has been arranged with them for 22 March. The issue is on-going at this point.

Clocks - every day at 4:00 p.m. all the clocks in the Hall building are stopped and then brought into synchronization by a master control panel. If a clock is faulty, it has to be reported. Mr. Ghaemi and Ms. Brown pointed out that difficulties also exist in the CC, AD, and the Webster and Vanier Libraries. Students were not informed about whom to address or how to go about contacting them to have repairs done.

Cleaning - Dr. Barlow was under the impression that complaints received from Continuing Education at the Victoria School had been addressed, and that the recreation facilities had also been included. Mr. Pavlicik explained that the situation had improved slightly but was still considered inadequate. Dr. Barlow explained that the downtown cleaning was contracted out, new contractors had been hired, but basically the problem came down to resources and the number of hours available to the cleaners. For example, the classrooms are booked from 8:45 a.m. to 10:30 p.m., resulting in cleaning time at night. Washrooms pose a difficult problem due to the heavy amount of traffic. Dr. Barlow asked for comments/ suggestions from Council on these mattersl.

Dr. Litner asked if a cost analysis had been done on the validity of using an external cleaning contractor downtown as opposed to internal cleaners, such as is used at Loyola. Since the decision was taken over ten years ago to move to this system, Dr. Barlow assumed that a study had been conducted at that time. Mr. Lowther stated that although cleaning was a problem, it was a fact that students, faculty and staff treated the environment quite badly, and that more care is necessary. Dr. Barlow is aware that the most effective way to combat the problem is to change behaviour and attitudes but asks CCSL for help in getting the message across to the students.

Mr. Leibu continued the discussion by pointing out that students don't feel they have a venue by which to voice their concerns or to receive information, that communication was a major problem. Dr. Litner mentioned the workshop being held at the Future of Concordia Conference on the state of the classrooms, and Dr. Barlow indicated that a task force had been established by the Vice-Rector, Services and the Chairs' Caucus to examine the problem. In response to Mr. Pavlick's comment that cleanliness in areas such as the gym is unacceptable, Dr. Barlow indicated that the budget for maintenance excludes some spaces, such as the gym and residences, which are non-admissible space, and cleaning has to be paid out of their own operating budgets. The allocation of maintenance money for inadmissible space is an on-going issue. Obviously, the first priority of maintenance is to attend to the admissible space. Mr. Pavlicik raised the question about whether the department could hire its own cleaners, which led to Mr. Counihan asking if students could be hired. Dr. Barlow said he would have to look into the matter, but it was his understanding that it may be feasible at the SGW campus but not at Loyola.

Ventilation, Hall Building - Dr. Barlow informed Council that if there is a need to re-examine the hours of operation, input from students would be sought. Some of the on-going operations in the Hall Building require 24 hour ventilation.

Carding Webster Washroom - This was a short-term matter that has been discontinued.

Suggestions made by Council for better communication included that the 2400 Work Control Centre number be widely advertised as the correct number to call to report any complaints, defects, etc., between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. After hours, Security should be informed. Dr. Barlow pointed out that even the new classrooms in the Hall building were very quickly defaced and run down. It was, once again, pointed out that student representation on task forces on committees remains the most viable option to having student input on and outstanding issues of physical environment.

Mr. Ghaemi questioned Dr. Barlow on the habit of Security not giving out the 2400 telephone number to students, as well as on the University's policy in handling bomb threats.

As regards the 2400 number, the only reason for Security not to give out a number would be if the person asked for a specific number, such as the power plant; but he will inform the Director that the general number should be given to students.

Mr. Ghaemi, Ms. Kerby and Dr. Barlow discussed the problem of bomb threats at the University and Dr. Barlow explained the rationale behind the University's policy on evacuation. All bomb threats are investigated.

Mr. Ghaemi suggested that "Please Stand Right" signs be installed for the escalators. This suggestions will be followed up by Dr. Barlow. As to Mr. Ghaemi's question on why painting is only done every seven years, Dr. Barlow informed him that, contrary to that statement, only certain areas wait seven years to be painted, such as Professors' offices; public areas and classrooms can be and are painted at least once a year.

Dr. Boisvert pointed out that the physical environment of the University is a major part of student life, and asked how Council could ensure continuity on student concerns. He suggested that the Associate Vice-Rector, Services (Physical Environment), be invited to become an observer of CCSL. Dr. Barlow responded that he had no objections, although he may not be able to attend all CCSL meetings, or be able to respond immediately at all times, but could possibly explain and follow-up. Dr. Boisvert explained that this would not be a voting position, and would not jeopardize the parity of Council. A motion was proposed by Mr. Leibu, seconded by Mr. Counihan, that the Associate Vice-Rector, Services (Physical Environment) be appointed an observer to the Concordia Council on Student Life. Ms. Torbit asked that the Associate Vice-Rector not send a delegate more often than he himself attends.

On a unanimous vote, the motion was carried.

Mr. Leiby suggested that one day a year students fill out forms about a day in their lives at the University, listing both positive and negative issues, and that complaints be analyzed. An information exchange could be carried in the University newspapers; suggestion boxes could be set up in different buildings; comment forms could be distributed. Publicize the work control number. Dr. Barlow will consider the suggestions, and agrees that a method has to be devised to keep the general community aware of issues. Ms. Brown suggested that one night a semester, all senior administration be available to hold open discussion periods with students. Dr. Boisvert informed Council that this type of meeting was being held by Student Services and the first one had proven to be very successful; another meeting will be held at Loyola on 6 April. Mr. Ghaemi thanked Ms. Kerby for the effort put into advertising these meetings.

Dr. Boisvert thanked Dr. Barlow for attending and welcomed him as a permanent observer to CCSL.

b) There was no other business arising.

5. Directors' Reports: Health Services - Ms. Torbit informed Council that the peer health educators had gone into ten classes and the residences, reaching 450 students. She expressed her thanks to both CUSA and the Queer Collective for their support and assistance.

CCSL was invited to the Human Development session to be held 14 May.

Recreation & Athletics - Mr. Pavlicik reported on behalf of Mr. Zarins who was in Halifax with the men's basketball team for the National Championships. The women's basketball team placed 5th in the championships held in Calgary.

Counselling & Development - Dr. Graub distributed documents - Highlights Reported to CCSL, in a information format which also encouraged comments, questions and suggestions. Also included were the documents Get a Life! and an announcement for the Career Strategies day 5 April 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. to be held on the mezzanine of the Hall Building.

Mr. Lowther and Ms. Fortier congratulated Dr. Graub on the format of the presentation which solicited immediate feedback. They also enjoyed the newsletter, especially the title.

Dean of Students - The Future of Concordia Conference will be held Friday, 25 March and Mr. Counihan invited all students to attend.

On 22 March, an information session on graduate life at Concordia will be held for 2nd and 3rd year students.

The CCSL awards deadline is 24 March, and Mr. Counihan encouraged submissions.

Financial Aid & Awards - Mr. Côté commented briefly on the research portfolio which is the responsibility of himself and Dr. Graub. They are conducting a survey which would highlight the needs, interests and characteristics of students; it is hoped that 600 students will be involved and provide useful information which is not currently in the databases.

Modifications have been made to the emergency loan format. Students in crisis will be able to have a walk-in meeting, while non-crisis individuals will have to make an appointment.

Advocacy & Support Services - Ms. Kerby discussed the success of the Legal Information Services run by the McGill law students, and advised Council that they would be continued throughout the spring and summer by the supervisory lawyer.

CARL - information packages will be distributed to all students next week. The Office of the Registrar will establish information kiosks and a helpline to advise students and help with special need students.

6. Report from the Planning and Resources Committee: The issue of student representation on departmental-level bodies will be raised at the next meeting of Council.
7. Student Life Issues: Ms. Kerby raised the issue of the sexual assault report that had been received by the Occupational Health and Safety Committee and endorsed by the Committee to the Vice-Rector, Services. She raised the question of the perception of fear versus actual incidents and questioned how to address these issues and make people feel secure. Ms. Brown stated that the signs in the VA building, in her opinion, are misleading and tend to exaggerate situations and consequently heighten unfounded fears. As well, she felt that the press didn't help the situation by placing an over-emphasis on stories dealing with urban violence. Mr. Lowther agreed, and stated that "once you plant the seed of fear, you are more likely to be a victim". Mr. Pavlicik commented on the coverage of International Women's Day by the CTR.
8. New Business: Mr. Ghaemi tabled the document Proposal for the plan of operations of the alternative library book renewal system, to operate via

telephonic means, for discussion, and requested that the Chair forward the suggestion to Dr. R. Bonin, Director of Libraries. Mr. Leiby volunteered the information that the Atwater Library is involved in a similar exercise. Ms. Kerby suggested that it could be tested and evaluated over a period of time. Mr. Lowther advised that Council await a response from Dr. Bonin before proceeding with an indepth discussion.

9. Next meeting: **Friday, 22 April 1994, 12:30 p.m., Loyola Campus, AD-131.**
10. Termination of Meeting: On a motion by Ms. Brown, seconded by Mr. Counihan, the meeting was terminated at 2:25 p.m.